

U.S. denies Filipinos' freedom, say exiles

By Costas Christ
Of the Emerald

After nearly a century of American involvement and an almost continuous U.S. military presence, the Philippines is a nation still struggling to attain democracy, according to Charito Planas, a Filipino exile.

On Monday, the government of Pres. Ferdinand Marcos held parliamentary elections. To make sure that the elections would be "free and fair," Pres. Marcos put 300,000 soldiers and police on alert for possible rebel attempts to disrupt the voting, according to Planas.

"There has been no such thing as free and fair elections under the Marcos dictatorship," says Planas, who escaped from her homeland in 1978 after being jailed for 14 months without charges.

Planas is not the only Filipino to question the outcome of elections under Marcos. Sister Aida Velasquez, who spoke at the University on May 9, claims that as long as Marcos stays in power, the chances for economic justice and democracy in the Philippines are slim.

Glen May, a Philippine scholar and history professor at the University, says "it is important to understand that these elections are fake. The Parliament has no power in the Philippines. The purpose of the elections is to appease the World Bank and to make life easier for (Pres.) Reagan so that he can visit the Philippines."

The issues of democracy in the Philippines and U.S. support for the Marcos government are directly linked together, according to Planas

and Velasquez. Both believe that U.S. military support has been the major reason the Marcos dictatorship has been able to stay in power.

"The American public is told that military aid to the Philippines is supposed to prevent communism from taking over our country. The truth is that the aid, in the form of weapons and communications equipment, is used to oppress the Filipino people," Velasquez says.

"The Philippine military gets training from the United States in torture techniques, jungle survival, and psychological warfare," she adds.

Velasquez, a Benedictine nun, says that while she is not a supporter of Marxism or communism, "the fact is that the leftists in the Philippines have been more sensitive to the needs of the poor than the government. As long as the United States continues to support Marcos then the people will turn to the left."

Planas agrees, saying that the United States, in supporting Marcos, is actually promoting communism in the Philippines.

"President Kennedy spoke the truth when he said, 'Those who make peaceful revolution impossible make violent revolution inevitable.' For this reason a peoples' revolution in the Philippines can no longer be discounted," Planas says.

"As in El Salvador, we are faced with a situation where attempts by the opposition to bring about political and economic change has been met with repression from the military," she says.

Planas wants to let Americans know that the main problem in the Third World is poverty and not communism. She claims that what is now happening in Central America, Africa and in the Philippines is a struggle for economic justice.

"The problem is that the United States often chooses to



Photos by Michael Clapp

Charito Planas

support dictatorships simply because they are anti-communist. The best way for America to protect its national security is to make friends. You lose friends when you support dictators like Marcos," Planas says.

A growing concern to many Filipinos, according to Velasquez, is the presence of U.S. military bases in the islands.

"The bases have made us a part of the power struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union," Velasquez says.

"We have also become more aware of the danger of nuclear weapons being stored in the Philippines on U.S. ships and submarines," she says. "We feel that the presence of these weapons threatens our survival and security as a nation."

While Velasquez admits that getting the bases removed from the Philippines is a big task, Prof. May considers it to be nearly impossible.

"There is no way that the United States is going to pull out the bases. All of the scenarios that we are promoting in the Philippines lead to keeping the bases there," May says.

"The problem is that when Reagan is long dead, we'll be paying the consequences for our government's Philippine policies. As far as I'm concerned nothing short of disaster will result from our continued support of Marcos," he says.

Those interested in an update on events in the Philippines can hear Charito Planas speak tonight at 7 in Room 221 of the Law School.



Sister Aida Velasquez

Bay says serious problems await successor

By Doug Nash
Of the Emerald

In between the interviews and the calls of congratulation Thursday, University Athletic Director Rick Bay was able to reflect on the bright future ahead of him as Ohio State University's new athletic director.

And though he was equally as optimistic about the University's athletic prospects, he could not overlook the serious problems that await his successor.

"We're slowly — maybe even rapidly — getting to the point where it's going to be next to impossible to fund ourselves adequately," Bay said. "Rallying all the forces necessary to get state aid for intercollegiate athletics — that's going to be essential in the long run."

Oregon is the only state in the Pacific 10 Conference that does not provide funding for intercollegiate athletics. And without state support, Bay has been unable to reduce the department's \$600,000 to \$700,000 carry-over deficit — a problem the next athletic director will have to grapple with.

"To reduce that, you have to produce a surplus," Bay said. "We've just been sort of hanging on year after year."

"I think we've been responsible and up front about our financial situation. But the new person coming in will still have that battle to fight," he added.

Bay said he has mixed emotions about leaving Eugene, about leaving the athletes, coaches and staff around him. The honor is not only his, he said, as it reflects on the quality of the University

as a whole.

And just three days after the Incidental Fees Committee decided to give \$722,439 to the athletic department, he had nothing but good words to say about the students: "The students have been extremely supportive of the program. It's getting to the point where it's unfair to ask them for much more."

Despite the financial problems, Bay said things have improved since he came to the University. He said he instilled some credibility and integrity in the department that did not exist under the beleaguered former administration.

Above all else, Bay said he does not want people to get the idea that he's jumping off a sinking ship.

"It would be wrong for anyone to believe I'm bailing out," he said. "I think

we have a bright future. I would not be leaving if it weren't for a job of this magnitude."

A job of that magnitude, however, will bring its own unique set of problems, he said. Bay will have to deal with alumni and boosters of a \$14 million program that has come to expect success.

Indeed, these are the same fans who almost had the football coach lynched for losing three games last season.

"It's going to be difficult to keep things in perspective," he said. "Sooner or later, the boosters have to be convinced that the days of the dynasties are pretty much over, that it's not a disaster to not go to the Rose Bowl!"

Missing out on the Rose Bowl, at least, should be something Bay is already well-prepared for.